

11. A lamp as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that two of the three dimensions of the discharge vessel, in particular its length and width, are substantially greater than its third dimension, in particular its thickness.

AG 12. (Amended) A lamp as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the discharge vessel is adapted to the contours of a surface to be irradiated with the lamp.

REMARKS

The provisional election of Claims 1-12 for prosecution is hereby affirmed.

Claims 4-12 are objected to as being in improper multiple dependent form. Claims 2-12 have been amended to delete multiple dependency.

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ronda et al. (U.S. patent 6,417,614).

Ronda et al. discloses a low pressure mercury discharge lamp including a phosphor layer for, *inter alia*, converting UV radiation of one wavelength range to UV radiation of a different wavelength range.


In contrast, Applicants' invention is a rare-gas low-pressure discharge lamp which does not contain mercury. See, for example, page 2, line 31 of Applicants' specification.

In order to make this distinguishing feature of the invention more apparent, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the discharge vessel which is filled with a gas consisting of a rare gas. The term "consisting" has an accepted meaning which is understood to exclude other gaseous materials (such as mercury) from the fill, as opposed for example to the term "comprising", which would be understood to allow the inclusion of other gaseous materials.

Accordingly, the Ronda et al. does not anticipate the claims, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above arguments and amendments, it is felt that the application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John C. Fox, Reg. 24,975  
Consulting Patent Attorney  
203-329-6584

MARKED-UP AMENDED CLAIMS

1. A rare-gas low-pressure discharge lamp for generating ultraviolet light, in particular for cosmetic or therapeutic purposes, with a discharge vessel which is filled with a gas consisting of a rare gas, the discharge vessel being ~~and is~~ at least partly transparent to UV light, ~~characterized in that the~~ discharge vessel being ~~is~~ at least partly coated with a phosphor which radiates UV light when excited by UV excitation radiation produced in the discharge vessel.

2. A lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the excitation radiation produced in the discharge vessel has wavelengths in the VUV range.

3. A lamp as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the discharge vessel is filled with xenon or neon.

4. A lamp as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1 to 3~~, characterized in that the discharge vessel is at least partly made of a glass, preferably of a glass having a transmissivity of 20 to 70% for light of 312.6 nm wavelength.

5. A lamp as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1 to 4~~, characterized in that the phosphor is formed such that less than 1% of the light radiated thereby under the excitation of an excitation radiation produced in the discharge vessel has wavelengths below 290 nm.

6. A lamp as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1 to 5~~, characterized in that the phosphor is formed such that between 1% and 10% of the light radiated thereby upon excitation with an excitation radiation produced in the discharge vessel has wavelengths between 290 and 320 nm.

7. A lamp as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1 to 6~~, characterized in that the phosphor is formed such that less than 5% of the light radiated thereby upon excitation by an excitation radiation produced in the discharge vessel has wavelengths above 400 nm.

8. A lamp as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1 to 7~~, characterized in that the phosphor comprises at least one luminescent material, preferably a combination of luminescent materials, chosen from the following group of luminescent

materials:  $\text{BaSi}_2\text{O}_5:\text{Pb}$  (BSP),  $\text{CeMgAl}_{11}\text{O}_{19}$  (CAM),  $\text{LaPO}_4:\text{Ce}$  (LAP),  
 $\text{SrB}_4\text{O}_7:\text{Eu}$  (SBE),  $(\text{Sr},\text{Ba})\text{MgSi}_2\text{O}_7:\text{Pb}$  (SMS).

9. A lamp as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1 to 8~~, characterized in that a UV-light reflecting layer, in particular a layer comprising  $\text{MgO}$  and/or  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , is provided on portions of the discharge vessel.

10. A lamp as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1 to 9~~, characterized in that the discharge vessel is not tubular in shape.

12. A lamp as claimed in claim 10 ~~or 11~~, characterized in that the discharge vessel is adapted to the contours of a surface to be irradiated with the lamp.